

We Claim:

1. A combination filter element support and anti-prefill valve for use with an annular filter element having an annular filter media with a hollow core and disposed within a housing, wherein the housing is closed by an end plate having a central spin-on outlet opening and a plurality of spaced radially disposed inlets, the combination comprising:

a unitary body having annular portion wherein the annular portion has annular shoulder extending radially therefrom for supporting the filter element, and a sealing section which engages the end plate over a continuous location which is coaxial with the central spin-on opening, and

the unitary body including a radially extending plate portion having an axially positioned one way valve unitary therewith which opens in an axial direction toward the spin-on opening, the one way valve closing to prevent oil or fuel from flowing through the central spin-on opening and into the hollow core of the filter element and opening when fluid is being circulated is under pumping pressure.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein the annular portion is adapted to extend into the hollow core.

3. The combination of claim 1 wherein the one way valve is a purse valve comprising lips which intersect along a line, the lips projecting away from the hollow core and being biased together at the line, whereby fluid pressure in the

hollow core separates the lips along the line to open the one way valve and fluid pressure outside of the filter element applied against the lips urges the lips into engagement along the line to close the one way valve.

4. The combination of claim 3 wherein there are two lips, the two lips being joined by web portions which flex, allowing the two lips to part along the line providing an opening through which the fluid flows.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein the radially extending plate portion is disposed in spaced relation to the annular shoulder at an end of the annular portion opposite the sealing section to define a chamber for receiving the one way valve.

6. The combination of claim 5 wherein the unitary body is made of rubber.

7. The combination of claim 6 wherein the filter element support and anti-prefill valve are in further combination with a filter cartridge having the annular filter element therein and wherein the annular filter media is a media for filtering engine lubricating oil or fuel.

8. The combination of claim 3 wherein the filter element support and anti-prefill valve are in further combination with a filter cartridge having the annular filter element therein and wherein the annular filter media is a media for filtering engine lubricating oil or fuel.

9. The combination of claim 1 wherein the filter element support and anti-prefill valve are in further combination with a filter cartridge having the annular filter element therein and wherein the annular filter media is a media for filtering engine lubricating oil or fuel.

10. The combination of claim 1 wherein the radially extending plate portion is disposed in spaced relation to the annular shoulder at an end of the annular portion opposite the sealing section to define a chamber for receiving the one way valve.

11. The combination of claim 1 wherein the unitary body is made of rubber.